

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

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EDITOR

The Work of the Bureau of Venereal Diseases

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The 1938-39 fiscal year has been characterized by marked expansion of the venereal disease control program in California. This expansion has been chiefly along the following lines; expansion of clinic service, laboratory service, training program both for physicians and nurses, drug distribution program, epidemiological services, and lay education activities. In addition, there have been legislative enactments in the form of premarital and prenatal legislation. Each of these factors may be considered in turn.

Clinic Activities

The number of clinic centers represented in the reports coming to the State Department of Public Health has been expanded from 101 to 129 during the fiscal year. There has been a strengthening of the clinics all over the state, improvement of standards of clinic service, and this service has been rendered more available to the public. The more important developments were in the following centers:

San Francisco. A new clinic was established in the downtown district, opened to patients early in March, and has been running approximately 1700 clinic visits per month since that time. This clinic occupies a second floor, providing floor space of approximately 3000 square feet. It is well lighted and ventilated and modern in every respect.

Oakland. During the year a new clinic was set up

in Oakland but was not opened to the public until after the end of the fiscal year. This clinic occupies a second floor of a city owned building providing a floor space of approximately 4000 square feet and provides perhaps the most adequate facilities of any clinic in the state.

Los Angeles City Health Department. There was marked expansion in the clinic activities in Van Nuys, Venice, West Los Angeles, and at Watts. In addition, there was a strengthening of the central clinics by the assignment of full time clinicians to that health department.

San Bernardino. The clinic which was established at San Bernardino in the spring of 1938 continued to expand during the year and the monthly patient visit load had increased from approximately 450 per month to 1650 by the end of this fiscal year.

Sacramento. The clinic continued to expand, having increased from approximately 500 patient visits per month to 3000 patient visits per month in the 18 months since the clinic was reorganized.

Fresno. Growth continued at the Fresno County Hospital clinic. The monthly clinic visits having increased from approximately 450 to approximately 1600. In addition, two evening clinics per week were established at the city health department to take care of patients who were unable to attend the day clinics at the county hospital.

Imperial County. Two clinics were established in Imperial County, at El Centro and Brawley. Approximately 350 patients were brought under treatment in that county in the six months during which these clinics were operated.

Contra Costa County. A new clinic was established in Pittsburg at which approximately 40 patients are receiving treatment. The clinic in Richmond was expanded.

Tulare County. Arrangements were made for the establishment of a clinic at Visalia.

San Luis Obispo County. Arrangements were made for the transfer of the clinic from the county hospital to the county health department in San Luis Obispo County.

Ventura County. Care of patients in rural districts was provided through cooperative arrangements with the county health department and the county hospital.

San Mateo County. Five clinic centers were set up and operated.

Santa Clara County. A new clinic was established in the county health department at San Jose.

The clinics in the State Relief Administration camps were continued. A hospital for the treatment of acute gonorrhea and syphilis cases was provided at Camp Stockton. This bureau assumed the responsibility of the clinic in Camp Devore in southern California. By this arrangement the bureau has assumed responsibility for supervision of venereal disease cases in the State Relief Administration camps.

In addition to these specific advances in clinic service, intangible results in a number of county hospital clinics and private clinics throughout the state have been noted during the past year due to consultative service and the provision of drugs and record forms by the State Bureau. It might be noted that during the first year of activity, during the 1937-38 fiscal year, the bureau attempted to coordinate and build up clinic facilities in rural districts, thereby providing experience for staff members in districts where the problems were less complex. During the 1938-39 fiscal year major emphasis has been given to the development of a more adequate program in the metropolitan areas.

Laboratory Facilities

Assistance was given during the year to the establishment of laboratories in Sonoma, Tulare, Monterey counties and to the expansion of facilities in the state laboratory and the laboratories of the Los Angeles City and Los Angeles County Health Departments. In the state laboratory a darkfield mailing service was

initiated and the State Laboratory began offering evaluation services to local laboratories. A number of Wassermann surveys were conducted in local laboratories. A number of Wassermann surveys were conducted during the year, particularly on industrial and relief groups.

Training Program

During the year 21 physicians received post graduate training in venereal disease control through stipends provided by the bureau. Fifteen of these physicians were absorbed by the bureau on a full time basis beginning July 1, 1939. Five physicians were returned to local health departments to continue their work in these departments.

In cooperation with the department of hygiene of the University of California, a short post graduate course was arranged for public health nurses. Bureau personnel provided the medical lectures for this course. The total attendance at the course was 84 nurses of whom 65 were from the State of California.

Epidemiological Activities

Eighteen public health nurses on the staff were doing full time venereal disease control work during the year. They served to coordinate the epidemiological work in the various counties in which they were placed. While the major work has been in connection with clinic service, beginnings have been made in various places throughout the state in providing epidemiological services to private physicians.

Drug Distribution

There has been marked expansion of the drug distribution program throughout the year. The total amount of drugs distributed to private physicians and clinics is shown in the following table. While the stated policy of drug distribution is that these drugs are available for free and part pay patients, drugs are supplied whenever requested by private physicians.

DRUG DISTRIBUTION—JULY, 1938-JUNE, 1939

Drug	Size	Number Ampules
Neoarsphenamine -----	0.45 gm.	23,823
Neoarsphenamine -----	0.6 gm.	47,023
Neoarsphenamine -----	6.0 gm.	1,513
Mapharsen -----	0.04 gm.	18,978
Mapharsen -----	0.06 gm.	25,355
Mapharsen -----	0.6 gm.	1,140
Tryparsamide -----	2.0 gm.	4,820
Tryparsamide -----	3.0 gm.	5,735
Bismarsen -----	0.2 gm.	3,114
Bismuth Salicylate -----	0.13 gm.	34,337
Bismuth Salicylate -----	30 cc.	2,946
Bismuth Salicylate -----	60 cc.	3,418
Sulfanilamide -----	5 gr.	62,250
Distilled Water -----	10 cc.	91,483
Distilled Water -----	50 cc.	832
Distilled Water -----	100 cc.	752
Distilled Water -----	500 cc.	20

Lay Educational Activities

Three members of the bureau staff have been devoting full time to lay education work during the past year. A WPA artist has made a number of charts and graphs which have been used in educational work. There have been numerous state-wide news releases. A number of feature stories have been released to newspapers.

There have been 385 lectures under the auspices of the bureau to 39,058 persons. In many cases the lectures accompanied motion picture showings. Additional film showings were scheduled.

An exhibit was installed in the Hall of Science at the Golden Gate International Exposition on Treasure Island and has been seen by approximately 2,360,000 persons. Displays were also shown at state and county fairs. There were 275,802 pieces of literature distributed during the year.

Legislation

Three bills pertaining to venereal disease control were passed by the 1939 session of the state legislature; one requires a premarital examination for syphilis, the second requires a prenatal examination for syphilis, and the third adds a question to the birth certificate pertaining to whether or not a serological test was taken on the mother. These acts will go into effect September 19, 1939. Plans for the administration of these acts, and educational material had already been prepared by the end of this fiscal year.

Summary

While the progress that has been made during the past year is gratifying, there are many of the rural sections of the state in which the program is quite inadequate. Additional funds will be necessary before these rural districts can be reached. The attached tables will serve to indicate the general trend of the program in California from a statistical standpoint.

CLINIC TREATMENTS—MONTHLY AVERAGE

	<i>Syphilis</i>	<i>Gonorrhea</i>
1937	24,924	11,945
1938	35,369	12,442
1939—first six months	48,835	15,774

CASES REPORTED

	<i>Syphilis</i>	<i>Gonorrhea</i>
Fiscal year—1938-39	23,786	16,220
Fiscal year—1937-38	22,609	18,280
Fiscal year—1936-37	12,995	13,526

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICE

The aim of the Public Health Nursing Service of the California State Department of Public Health is to assist in the development of an adequate public

health nursing service of high standard throughout the state. The means employed in working toward this objective includes: (1) the provision of advisory service to public health nurses in the state through the staff of field supervising nurses and through correspondence; (2) assistance to health departments and other public health agencies in obtaining qualified public health nurses; (3) the development of an educational program open to all public health nurses in the state.

During the last biennial period fifty-two nurses were employed through federal and state funds and assigned to local communities. These nurses were financed through the funds listed below:

United States Public Health Service (County Health Departments)	18
United States Public Health Service (Migratory Labor Group)	6
Children's Bureau funds	16
Bureau of Venereal Disease funds	12
Total	52

As of June 30, 1938, 1,139 nurses were employed by all public health agencies in California. The number of nurses employed by the various types of agencies are as follows:

Full time health departments	435
Boards of education	484
Other tax-supported groups	19
U. S. Indian Service	7
State Department of Public Health	8*
Nonofficial agencies	130
Industries	56
Total	1,139

* Exclusive of those assigned to work in local public health agencies.

Excluding the industrial nurses, this gives a proportion of one nurse to approximately 6100 population. The number of nurses employed in each county in California as of June 30, 1938, is indicated below.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES IN CALIFORNIA

June 30, 1938

Alameda	84	Mendocino	5
Alpine*	—	Merced	5
Amador	1	Modoc	3
Butte	6	Mono	1
Calaveras	1	Monterey	10
Colusa	1	Napa	2
Contra Costa	24	Nevada	3
Del Norte	2	Orange	21
El Dorado	2	Placer	2
Fresno	20	Plumas	2
Glenn	1	Riverside	22
Humboldt	4	Sacramento	26
Imperial	6	San Benito	1
Inyo	3	San Bernardino	19
Kern	18	San Diego	55
Kings	6	San Francisco	130
Lake	2	San Joaquin	14
Lassen	2	San Luis Obispo	6
Los Angeles	457	San Mateo	16
Madera	3	Santa Barbara	21
Marin	6	Santa Clara	38
Mariposa	1	Santa Cruz	7

* Included in Mono County Service.

Shasta -----	2	Ventura -----	15
Sierra -----	0	Yolo -----	2
Siskiyou -----	1	Yuba -----	2
Solano -----	7	Statewide	
Sonoma -----	8	State Department of	
Stanislaus -----	7	Public Health -----	9
Sutter -----	1	Calif. T. B. Ass'n -----	4
Tehama -----	2	American Red Cross -----	2
Trinity -----	1	Women's Council of	
Tulare -----	14	Home Missions -----	2
Tuolumne -----	1		
Total -----			1,139

An educational program for all public health nurses in the state was inaugurated in February, 1938. One series of conferences on the venereal disease control program was held in nine communities in the state with a total attendance of 452. The second series of conferences on tuberculosis was held in ten communities with a total attendance of 675.

Funds provided by the federal agencies for the training of public health personnel, have made it possible to give assistance in obtaining additional preparation in public health nursing to fourteen nurses.

In order to promote uniform reporting of public health nursing activities throughout the state, monthly report forms based on the form recommended by the Committee on Records and Reports of the State and Territorial Health Officers and adopted by the United States Public Health Service and the Children's Bureau, have been prepared and are now being used by nurses employed through state funds and by all the nurses in many of the full-time county health departments.

Case record forms for tuberculosis, communicable disease, venereal disease, morbidity and adult health supervision and school health work have been prepared in cooperation with the other bureaus in the department.

MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending August 26, 1939

Chickenpox

56 cases: Berkeley 2, Oakland 6, Contra Costa County 1, Fresno County 6, Humboldt County 1, Delano 1, Lake County 1, Los Angeles 5, Monrovia 1, Redondo 2, Whittier 1, Yosemite National Park 1, King City 2, Placer County 2, Corona 1, Elsinore 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego 2, San Francisco 12, San Joaquin County 1, Stockton 1, Santa Barbara 4, Santa Clara County 1.

Diphtheria

17 cases: Oakland 1, Colusa 4, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 5, San Diego County 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 1, San Joaquin County 1, Stockton 1, Watsonville 1.

German Measles

10 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 2, Orange County 1, Fullerton 1, Colfax 1, San Francisco 3, Trinity County 1.

Influenza

8 cases: Los Angeles County 4, Burbank 1, Los Angeles 2, South Gate 1.

Malaria

9 cases: Butte County 1, Placer County 1, Vacaville 1, Yolo County 2, Winters 3, Yuba County 1.

Measles

56 cases: Berkeley 1, Oakland 1, Humboldt County 4, Inyo

County 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 2, Azusa 3, Los Angeles 8, Pasadena 2, San Gabriel 1, Santa Monica 3, Bell 1, Yosemite National Park 1, Fort Bragg 1, Monterey 3, Orange County 2, Brea 1, Fullerton 1, Elsinore 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego County 2, San Diego 5, San Francisco 2, Santa Barbara 1, Solano County 1, Sonoma County 2, Tulare County 1, Ventura County 1, Ventura 1.

Mumps

133 cases: Alameda County 1, Berkeley 1, Oakland 6, Contra Costa County 1, Coalinga 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 4, Long Beach 4, Los Angeles 12, Pasadena 1, Santa Monica 2, Whittier 1, Fairfax 1, Plumas County 12, Sacramento 4, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 11, San Joaquin County 2, Stockton 20, San Luis Obispo County 5, San Mateo County 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Clara County 6, Palo Alto 11, San Jose 1, Santa Cruz County 1, Redding 15, Solano County 2, Sonoma County 1, Tulare County 1, Tulare 1.

Pneumonia (Lobar)

22 cases: Oakland 1, Fresno County 1, Eureka 1, Los Angeles County 3, Burbank 1, Claremont 1, Los Angeles 7, Pomona 1, San Gabriel 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Francisco 1, San Jose 2, Yuba County 1.

Scarlet Fever

48 cases: Oakland 1, Butte County 1, Fresno County 1, Imperial County 2, Holtville 1, Bakersfield 2, Lake County 1, Los Angeles County 3, Burbank 1, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 13, Pomona 1, Lynwood 1, Orange County 1, Brea 2, Placer County 1, Sacramento 2, San Bernardino County 1, Ontario 1, San Diego County 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 1, Lodi 1, Stockton 2, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Barbara 1, Solano County 1, Sonoma County 1, Exeter 1.

Smallpox

5 cases: Amador County 1, Sutter Creek 1, Humboldt County 1, Pomona 1, Chino 1.

Typhoid Fever

9 cases: Colusa County 1, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 1, Marin County 1, Merced County 1, Riverside County 1, Sacramento County 1, San Bernardino 1, Ventura County 1.

Whooping Cough

92 cases: Berkeley 1, Oakland 5, Butte County 1, Fresno County 2, Coalinga 1, Fresno 3, Bishop 2, Kern County 6, Los Angeles County 17, Long Beach 4, Los Angeles 13, Lynwood 2, Fullerton 2, Plumas County 9, Riverside County 3, Corona 1, San Diego County 3, San Diego 9, San Joaquin County 1, Solano County 2, Oxnard 3, Ventura 2.

Dysentery (Amoebic)

6 cases: Los Angeles 2, Ontario 2, San Diego 1, San Francisco 1.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

14 cases: Los Angeles 8, South Gate 1, Merced County 1, San Francisco 2, Redding 2.

Pellagra

2 cases: San Clemente 1, Yuba County 1.

Poliomyelitis

49 cases: Oakland 1, San Leandro 1, Fresno County 3, Kern County 1, Corcoran 1, Los Angeles County 6, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 1, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 4, Los Angeles 9, Pasadena 1, Monterey County 2, Santa Ana 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 1, Colton 1, Ontario 2, Redlands 1, San Bernardino 2, La Mesa 1, San Joaquin County 1, Santa Barbara County 3, Lompoc 1, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Maria 1.

Tetanus

One case: Los Angeles County.

Trachoma

One case: Fresno.

Encephalitis (Epidemic)

4 cases: Merced County 3, Sacramento County 1.

Trichinosis

2 cases: San Leandro.

Jaundice (Epidemic)

2 cases: Yuba County.

Food Poisoning

10 cases: Burbank 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 7, San Bruno 1.

Undulant Fever

4 cases: Los Angeles 1, Mill Valley 1, Napa County 1, Tulare 1.

Septic Sore Throat

2 cases: Pasadena 1, San Diego 1.

Relapsing Fever

One case: Tuolumne County.

Rabies (Animal)

10 cases: Kings County 4, Los Angeles 3, Laguna Beach 1, San Mateo County 1, Solano County 1.